Western Theo Seminary Jan. 9th 1843

To the Society of Inquiry at Princeton.

Dear Brethern, Your kind letter of Nov 19th was duely received, and it gives us much pleasure to continue our Correspondence with you. For if in truth we be Brethern, Members of the same Spiritual family, we must delight to know of each others welfare, or even to bear upon our hearts the burden of each others sorrows. Our interests are the same, our aims, our hopes are one, being of one faith, one baptism. We are united by profession to the same Head, even Christ, & are therefore members of that mystical body, of which, if one part suffers or rejoices, the whole filled with sympathy, is made to partake of the same joy or the same sorrow. Hence as the Statesman inquires with much solicitude, who & what manner of men are to sit with him in the councils of the Nation, so it becomes our peculiar privilege to inquire with much deeper solicitude; Who are to be our fellow labourers in the great work of the Ministry. Who are to stand with us upon the watch towers of Zion? Will they be men, who shall sound the gospel trumpet with faithfulness, giving an uncertain sound, but in such a harmonious strain, as to reverberate from valley to valley from mountain to mountain, from Continent to Continent until the whole Earth shall echo with the praises of Emmanuel, and all nations taught to worship the only living and true God.

While it is important that each one performs that peculiar work assigned him by the Master, is it not absolutely necessary that we should all labour in concert, that Jerusalem, being built up, may become a praise and a glory throughout the Earth

Though it may be the personal duty of but few of us to bear the gospel to the heathen nations, yet have we not all much to do in arousing the Church to put forth her most powerful efforts in the great work of Missions, which cause, she is now beginning to consider, as emphatically the Cause of God. This is a distinguishing characteristic of the gospel system of religion, & other system in the world has ever made it the indispensible duty of its votaries, to disseminate its principles throughout the world, in order to ameliorate the moral condition of the human family, from a principle of pure good will to men, & unfeigned love for the glory of God. This cause grows in magnitude as we contemplate the value of the immortal Soul and the dieing command of our blessed Redeemer — In view of all these interests, as well as the peculiar feelings of regard, which we entertain for you, situated in like circumstances with ourselves. We feel, Brethren, that we are identified with you, that all our interests are identified with the interests of the Church, which has made us her most favourite sons, & conferred upon us her choicest gifts. —

We feel, Brethren, that to us is committed a great and important work, a work, in which, no doubt, the Angels of God would delight to engage, but God has committed this work to earthen vessels, that the greater glory might redound to his own name. Who are to take the lead in directing the current of mind & forming the character of the Millions which now inhabit and the Millions more that are destined shortly to inhabit our own wide extended Country, as well as the Millions in foreign Lands, that are crowding the broad road to death shrouded in superstition & ignorance, sunk in degradation and misery. Undeniably the Ministry of the Gospel, to them more than any other professional men, it is committed under God to form the manners & habits, to give character & direct the energies of a people, to qualify them for

usefulness in this life, for glory and happiness in the life to Come.
The demands of the Church & the Claims of the world for able, devoted and efficient ministry, seem to be growing more imperative every year.
In view of this solemn work we are often led to exclaim with the Apostle "Who is sufficient for these things?" How shall we be able to govern, continue & fashion right the discordant elements of which human Society is composed? how shall we be fitted individually to watch over the Spiritual interests of whole Country in our new Settlements, with but little or no time for Study?, loving not only to contend against error in a thousand forms, Contesting every inch of ground with many learned in all the wisdom & cunning of this world, whose influence must be overcome or the result will prove most disastrous to the Cause of Truth, but also to endure Self-denial & sufferings not surpassed, if equaled by the trials of the foreign Millionary. Our Brethren in the West call loudly for able and devoted Ministry? There a wide door of usefulness is already open. A field white already to the harvest? Many of our Home Millionaries have had their labours abundantly blessed during the past year, While entire deadness seemed to characterise the Church surrounded with all the privileges of the Sacred gospel. But, Brethren, do not understand us as exalting this field above the foreign; Nay, we believe with you, that the field is the world, that the heathen have Claims equally as strong, if not stronger than those of our own Country, and though our Society is small & many of us new members yet there are some of us inquiring prayerfully, whether the Claims of the heathen are not stronger upon us individually than those of our own Countrymen. We believe that the interest now manifested on this subject, is now greater than it has been here for some time, though perhaps not things like what it was when Newton, Hamilton & others occupied our pulpits here. Our prayer is that we may not only be encouraged by their success, but have the Spirit of Christ, as they had, constraining us to spend and be spent, wherever God may send

us, Should it be even to the most distant part of the Earth—
We have no Missionary intelligence to Communicate, as you doubtless have all if
not more than we have — At the Convention which met in Pittsburgh,
you have heard the result of its deliberations, no doubt before they came
It was indeed a Solemn meeting, one accompanied with much prayer,
as we saw the Fathers in the Church arise and with teary rolling down
their furrowed Cheeks, confess their sins, to one an other and to God, their
past unfaithfulness, their want of strong faith in the promises of God, the
hardness of their hearts and mourning over the low State of the Church,
you may well imagine the feelings of our hearts, as we have no language to
express them. We believe the influence of that meeting is being felt for good
among some of our Churches, upon some God is graciously bestowing a few mercy drops
among others we observe an anxiety in the minds of Christians, which seems to
indicate, they are not willing to live contented in this lukewarm condition in
which the Church has been so long —

As to ourselves we have little to say our number is greater than it was last Session
almost all of us are engaged in both Sabbath Schools & Bible Classes in these Cities,
and many of us in Social prayer meetings during the week, these duties we
find to be profitable to ourselves and hope by the blessing of God they may be
more so to others, Amongst us in the Seminary all things move on pleasantly, all we
want to make us really happy is the Special blessing of God. Though we all
believe that we have been actuated by the Spirit of God in coming to this place
yet we often fear that we have not that burning zeal, that flowing love to God
& for the souls of our never dieing fellow men, which should lead us to cry out
with the Apostle "Woe is unto us if we preach not the gospel."